Lovely Strange Dark

ITOMEGURI NO SOBYOU
"A CANVAS OF SPUN YARN"
BY AOI AKI
CHAPTER 5

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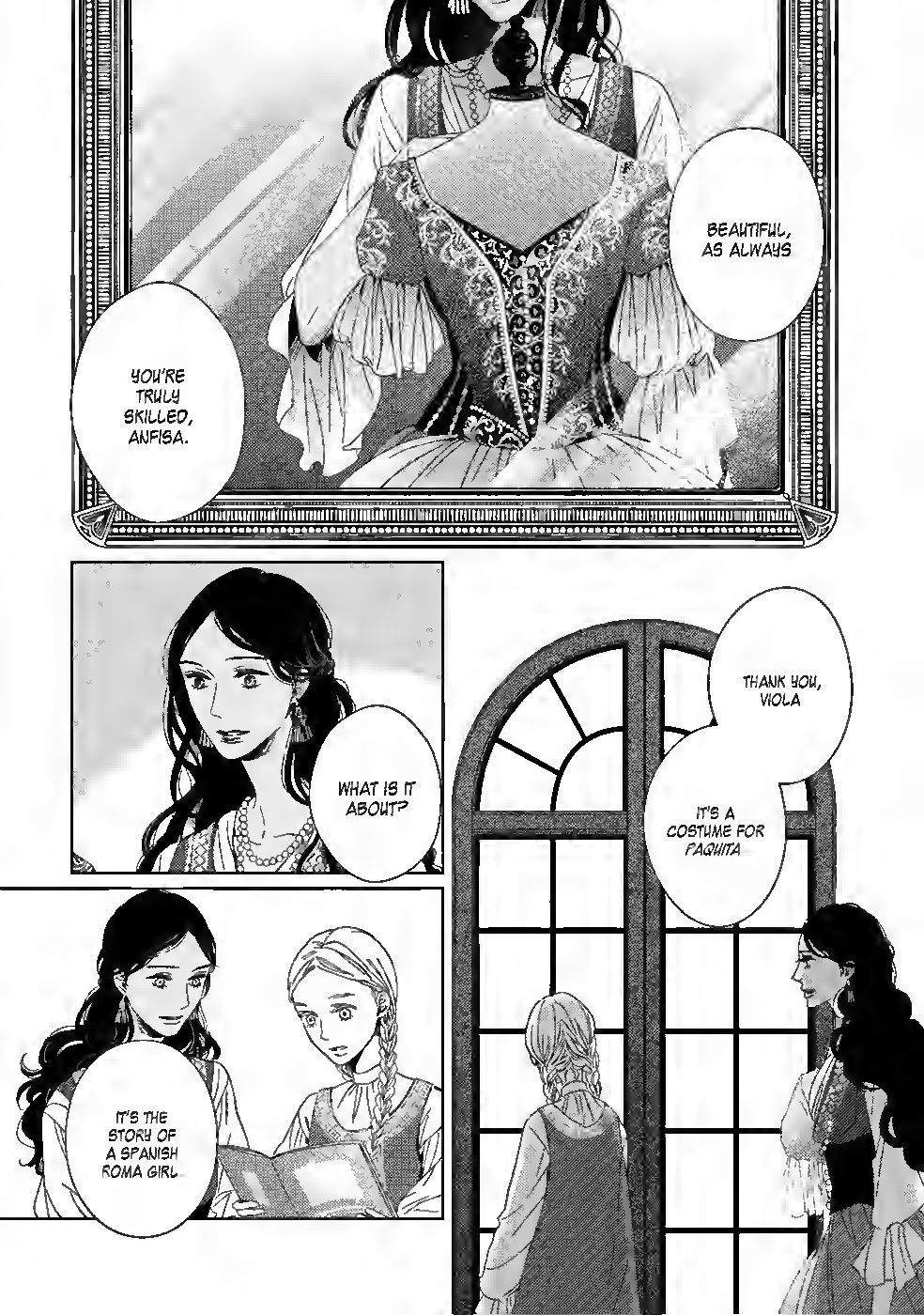
DOES IT FIT? ARE YOU COMFORTABLE?
CHAPTER FIVE
YES.
IT'S JUST RIGHT
I STUDIED OLD RUSSIAN BALLET COMPANY COSTUMES FOR INSPIRATION,
SINCE I THOUGHT CLASSIC WOULD BE THE WAY TO GO IN YOUR CASE.
IT LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.

THE EMBROIDERY IS GORGEOUS
IT'S CALLED TORZHOK EMBROIDERY
HEAVY BUT ELEGANT
When I go onstage in this outfit,
I'll have quit..
dancing here.

chapter
five


BEAUTIFUL, AS ALWAYS
YOU'RE TRULY SKILLED, ANFISA.
WHAT IS IT ABOUT?
IT'S THE STORY OF A SPANISH ROMA GIRL
THANK YOU, VIOLA
IT'S A COSTUME FOR FAQUITA

In Napoleonic Spain, a beautiful Roma girl named Paquita falls in love with Lucien, a French officer.
However, the Romani leader Inigo is also in love with her. Driven by jealousy, he plots to kill Lucien with poisoned wine.
When she learns of the scheme, Paquita changes the glasses, saving Lucien's life.
The two expose Inigo's fellow conspirator, who happens to be the governor of the province, and the plot is brought to an end.
Lucien asks Paquita for her hand in marriage but is rejected, for she feels she is too far beneath him.
A fortunate twist of fate reveals that Paquita, too, had been born into French aristocracy.
The ballet closes with the celebration of their wedding.
HMMM.

IF I WERE PAQUITA, I WOULD PUT MY FOOT DOWN AND FIGHT.
SO THIS CINDERELLA IS HERSELF A HIGHBORN...
I AGREE
SHE'S TOO ACCEPTING OF HER LOT. NO AMBITION AT ALL.
EARN IT! HOW?
NOW, IF I HAD ANY HAND IN THE STORY, SHE'D REMAIN A ROMA GIRL AND WORK HARD TO EARN HER HAPPINESS.

HOW VERY LIKE YOU.
SHE COULD CHARM THEM ALL WITH HER LOVELY VOICE.
THEY'D WELCOME HER INTO THEIR HOME. ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.
OF COURSE!
IT'S THE STORY OF MY DREAMS.
AH HA HA
YOU, SETTLE DOWN?
HMMM.
I CAN'T QUITE PICTURE MYSELF LIVING IN ONE PLACE FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE
I WONDER.

I DO THINK...
I'D LEAVE HOME
I'D WANT TO TRAVEL THE WORLD TO SING...
VIOLA,
HAVE YOU PICKED A DATE ALREADY?
I HAVE.
THE WEEK AFTER THE NEXT HARVEST FESTIVAL.

I SEE
WHAT IS IT LIKE, TRAVELING FROM PLACE TO PLACE?
...
VERY EXHAUSTING.
BUT ALSO A LITTLE EXCITING.
I'M NOT PAQUITA. NOT MANY PLACES WILL HAVE ME.
BUT ONCE I HAVE A DESTINATION, I WILL GO THERE
OTHERWISE, I'D BE LOST FOREVER.

I ONLY VISIT A PLACE ONCE
THE AIR,
THE PEOPLE...
THEY REPRESENT A STAGE OF MY LIFE.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF,
VIOLA

IT'S WONDERFUL.
I STITCHED IT IN ACANTHUS ARABESQUE.
ORNAMENTAL LEAVES TO ADORN THE MANY PLACES YOU'LL BE VISITING.
I ALSO PUT IN SOME VIOLETS—YOUR NAMESAKE FLOWER.
THE STEMS ARE THERE TO CONNECT US.
MAY THE PLANTS THAT COVER THIS EARTH AND WILD, BEAUTIFUL VIOLETS...
PROTECT YOU ON YOUR TRAVELS.
THANK YOU, ANFISA.

You don't know...

where your choices take you.

But...

TAKE CARE...

MADAM...

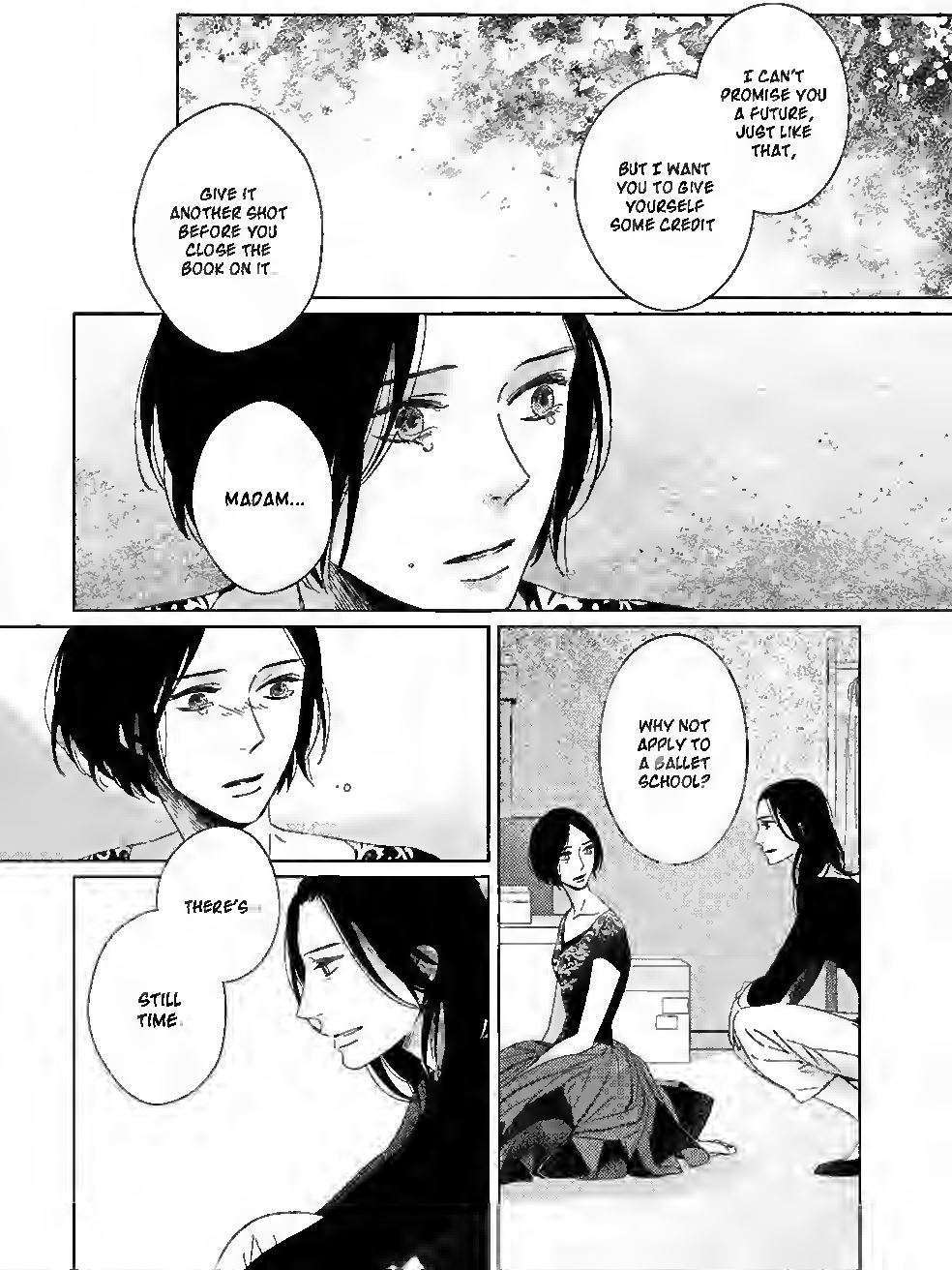
It ends here,

when I step into that point of time with no sound.

I'VE
ALREADY
DECIDED TO QUIT.
TO LET GO.
BUT I...
AKARI
I WANT TO KEEP DANCING.
IF I LOSE TRACK, I WON'T BE ME ANYMORE

I know I should stop dreaming.
That I should focus on my studies.
Get into university. Get a job. Get a life.
IF I LOSE BALLET,
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT.
WITHOUT IT,
I AM NOTHING.
AKARI,
HOW DO YOU DEFINE TALENT?

PERSONALLY,
I THINK IT MEANS, FOR THE MOST PART, THE ABILITY TO WORK FOR SOMETHING
TO FORGE AHEAD EVEN WHEN YOU'RE TIRED.
TO KEEP GOING, WITHOUT EVER GIVING UP.
TO PUSH HARDER THAN OTHER PEOPLE, EVERY SINGLE DAY.
YOU DO NEED A BIT OF A KNACK FOR IT, THOUGH.
IT'S A SIMPLE CONCEPT, REALLY, BUT ALSO THE MOST COMPLICATED.
TALENT IS EARNED.
I'VE WATCHED YOU FOR A LONG TIME—
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE MORE DRIVEN THAN OTHER PEOPLE.
YOU CAN RUN YOUR OWN SHOW NOW.

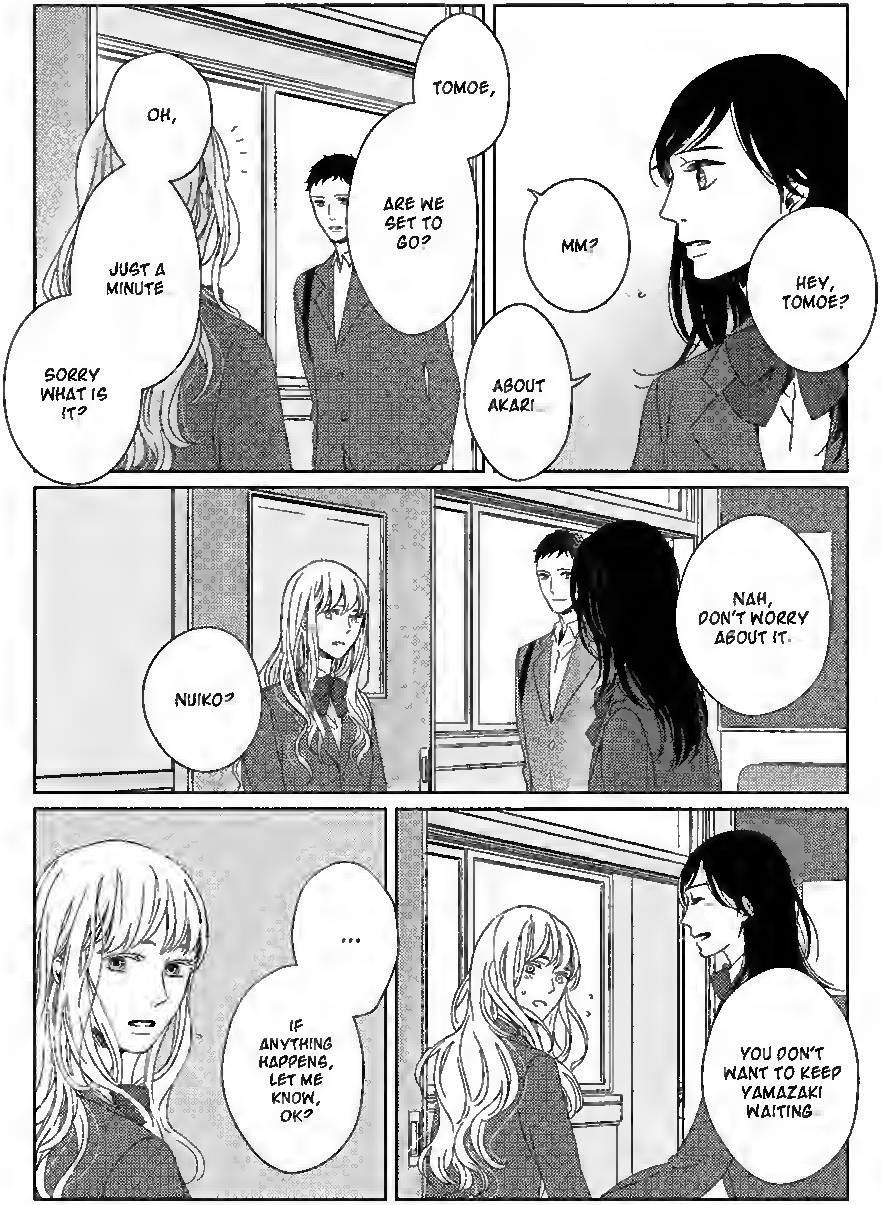

I CAN'T PROMISE YOU A FUTURE, JUST LIKE THAT,
BUT I WANT YOU TO GIVE YOURSELF SOME CREDIT
GIVE IT ANOTHER SHOT BEFORE YOU CLOSE THE BOOK ON IT
MADAM...
WHY NOT APPLY TO A BALLET SCHOOL?
THERE'S STILL TIME.

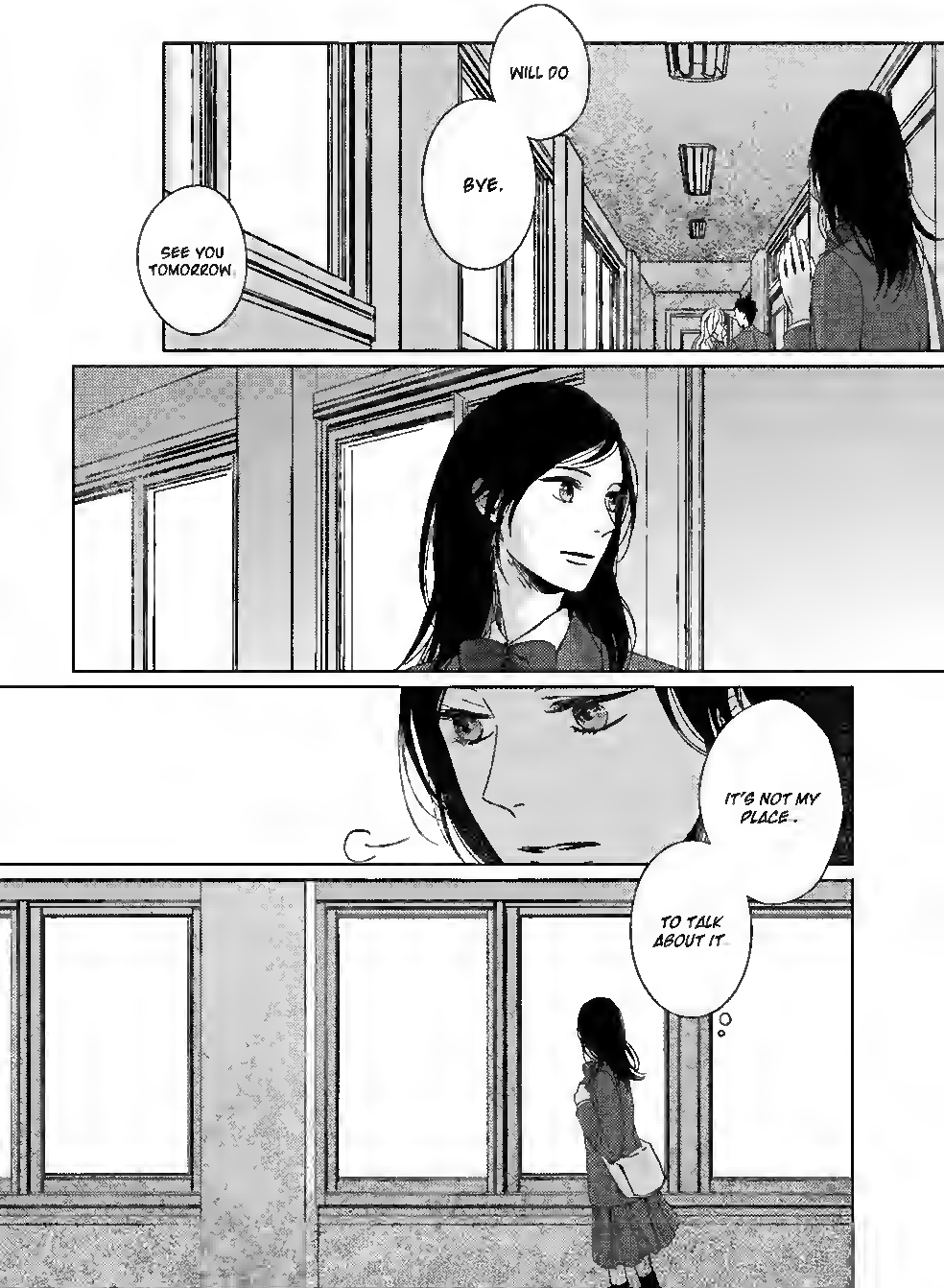
IT WON'T BE EASY, OF COURSE.
YOU'LL HAVE TO CONVINCE YOUR PARENTS
MADAM,
I—
BUT BEFORE YOU CAN ENTER THROUGH THE STRAIT GATE,
FIRST YOU NEED TO TAKE A STEP FORWARD.
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GIVE UP ON DANCING.
I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A GREAT LOSS

IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO WATCH YOU DANCE...
BECAUSE YOUR ENTIRE BEING SAYS YOU LOVE DANCING.

WHERE'S AKARI?
SHE ALREADY LEFT FOR HER BALLET LESSONS.
OH.

IS THAT YOU, NUIKO?


HEY, TOMOE?
MM?
ABOUT AKARI
TOMOE, ARE WE SET TO GO?
OH, JUST A MINUTE
SORRY WHAT IS IT?
NAH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
NUIKO?
YOU DON'T WANT TO KEEP YAMAZAKI WAITING
...
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, LET ME KNOW, OK?


SEE YOU TOMORROW.
BYE.
WILL DO
IT'S NOT MY PLACE.
TO TALK ABOUT IT